



NEWS from the

Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Committee







Senator Blanche L. Lincoln, Chairman agriculture.senate.gov

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Dear Fellow Arkansan,

As Chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee, I would like to share three issues I've been working on in the Senate this week that will help us move closer to achieving our goals of creating jobs, putting our economy back on track, and improving the lives of Arkansans.

First, I was able to include a [\\$1.5 billion disaster assistance package in the Senate's tax extenders package](#) that is now being considered on the Senate floor. This package will provide farmers the helping hand they need to get back on their feet and save jobs right here in Arkansas. Arkansas's farmers are the backbone of our state's economy, providing more than 270,000 jobs and contributing more than \$9 billion each year to Arkansas's economy. We cannot afford to see our agriculture producers forced out of business.

Second, I had the opportunity to meet with [members of the School Nutrition Association from Arkansas](#), including several school district food service directors. Arkansas has made great progress in school nutrition and physical fitness, most notably in that we have actually stopped the growth of childhood obesity. As Chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee, I will oversee efforts to improve childhood nutrition programs in the Senate this year and will look to Arkansas as a model for success as I move forward.

Third, I urged the administration to [relax restrictions on agricultural trade with Cuba and level the playing field](#) for our catfish farmers. ([Watch video from the Senate Finance Committee hearing.](#)) Agriculture is one of the only domestic industries where we enjoy a trade surplus. Production of a safe and affordable food supply creates American jobs and is something we should not take for granted. Our producers have a quality product to offer the rest of the world. It is our job to give them the open markets to do so.

As always, please feel free to [contact me](#). I look forward to hearing from you.

With Arkansas Pride,

Blanche L. Lincoln



Which of the following issues would you like more information on?

- ☐ Economy
- ☐ Education
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U.S. Senator Blanche Lincoln said Arkansas can be a model for how to reduce childhood obesity and ensure children have access to nutritious, affordable meals at the School Nutrition Association's annual Legislative Action Conference. She met with (from left to right) **Barbara Jirka** of Tyson Foods; **Jayme Zachry** of Tyson Foods; **Johnny Hughes** of Tyson Foods; **Kelly Bruce** of the Little Rock School District; **Adam Wilson** of the Fayetteville School District; **Debbie Stewart** of the Alama School District; **Gail Ferguson** of Tyson Foods; **Kim Wilson**, wife of Adam Wilson; and **Wanda Shockey**, Director of Child Nutrition for the Arkansas Department of Education.



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